

Match Report - Sunday 31st January

Boys Under 16 Development (Friendly)

Fleet 1 Woking 8

The U16 boys continued their winning streak with an 8-1 victory over Fleet & Ewshot.

We started strongly with Matt Le Brocq scoring after 5 minutes and then again at 7 minutes, it was obvious that Woking were a much stronger team than Fleet who were using quite a few U14s as they don't have a full team of U16s. Our game was a little narrow and we were not playing the passing game we know we are capable of, yet we still managed to score another two before half time, a great deflection by John Humphries and a solid strike by Mark Bourke (playing sweeper !!) .

At half time we discussed that what we should try and do was to play passing, strategic hockey rather than just concentrating on running at goal. Our sweeper was to find his second goal 1 minute into the new half and our general play improved, we were finding the right wing very well, running the ball along the base line and slipping it back creating multiple goal scoring opportunities. We occasionally crept back to the narrow game and failed to pass early on occasions but we used the space better in the second half and played some nice hockey. Ed Brierley and Ed Hilton both scored in the middle of the half and Matt le Brocq put away our last for his hat trick.

What was notable about the game was the great team spirit, how the more experienced players were supportive of the less experienced, giving them confidence and improving their play, Ed Brierley as captain was fantastic and definitely deserves a mention, even calling the shots from the side line when he was subbed off insisting players who would normally not get a chance to take short corners were given that opportunity.

Also worth a mention; Henry who asked to try defending, did a great job at right back, I think that could be your position! Dan showed some of the aggression Gary had been asking for in training and came so very close to scoring, and Karl played with more confidence.

I felt for Fleet (I think we all did) and to try and keep the score line down, we moved players out of position (who I am pleased to say were happy to co-operate with these requests). I also put a few restrictions on certain players which were all adhered to within the spirit.

To me the team spirit was the highlight of the game, very proud of you all, we have a great squad at Woking!

A big thank you to Girish for agreeing to umpire at short notice, (Girish is always happy to umpire colts games when he can!!)